

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented below.

Claims 3, 18-20, 23 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6-7, 16 and 21 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-17, 21-22 and 25 are pending.

Claims 1-10, 13-21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,442,304 issued to Crawley et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendments made to the claims.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 21 have been amended to recite a flexible tube or barrier that surrounds an optical fiber such that there is no material or liquid to be found between the flexible tube or barrier. This is completely unlike the disclosure of Crawley, where the only disclosure is directed to protecting a sensor by placing the sensor in a container and then filling the container with a liquid, preferably a liquid metal. Further, there is no disclosure that the container of Crawley extends the entire length of an optical fiber, rather the disclosure only states that the sensor of the fiber is contained in the enclosure.

Similar arguments apply to the remaining prior art cited by Examiner. It should also be noted that in each case, there is some material, either foam, solid or liquid, which is disposed between the optical fiber and any protective capillary or tube that is disclosed, unlike Applicants' claimed inventions. Applicants' claimed inventions are advantageous over the disclosures of the prior art in that they provide protection to the optical fiber without requiring additional materials to be added to the assembly that would result in increasing the overall diameter of the assembly, which may limit their usefulness in a well deployment. Such additional material and increased outer diameter of the assembly also reduces the flexibility of the assembly, which might prevent the assembly from being threaded through tortuous paths likely to be found within a well bore, and may require larger diameter spools so that the assembly could be stored without damage caused by stress due to winding the assembly on the spool.. For these reasons, Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 7 and 21 are novel and not obvious, and respectfully request their allowance, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe this application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the above amendments, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney, John Fitzgerald, at 310-242-2667.

Applicants believe that there are no fees payable with this response, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees in this matter to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

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Respectfully submitted,

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